

**Motion by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Measure R Project Delivery Committee
April 21, 2011**

**Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor: Leimert Park/Vernon Station and
Undergrounding Park Mesa Heights**

The Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor project is the first major transit project managed by Metro to be financed primarily by the half cent sales tax on purchases in Los Angeles County (Measure R). Upon completion, it will serve all County residents by providing a rail transit connection to Los Angeles International Airport. Voters along the Corridor were among the strongest constituencies to vote in support of this tax.

In public meetings conducted by Metro, the residents of View Park, Leimert Park and Park Mesa Heights strongly favored two design elements: undergrounding the segment of the alignment from 48th to 59th Streets within the City of Los Angeles and including a Leimert Park Station at the intersection of Vernon Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard to service this historic neighborhood.

A Metro study (Park Mesa Heights Grade Separation Analysis, June 2010) concluded that a below grade alignment would:

- 1) Improve travel time for *all* passengers to LAX airport;
- 2) Increase ridership on the line by 700 passengers per day, a 4% increase;
- 3) Reduce potential safety concerns at schools and other sensitive uses;
- 4) Minimize disruption to local businesses; and
- 5) Prevent gridlock on surface streets.

Inclusion of these two design elements is critical to ensure that this Measure R project is built in a manner that is both responsive to community concerns and does not miss an opportunity to serve some of the most historic neighborhoods in the region.

Measure R includes a variety of projects and categories with the overall intent of improving mobility in the region. The Federal government has taken note of this transit project with its award of a Transportation Infrastructure, Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Loan last summer. Incorporating these final two elements in the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor will ensure the maximum potential for providing a rail transit connection to the airport to all Los Angeles County, relieving congestion, improving air quality and promoting economic development for a community that whole-heartedly endorsed Measure R.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE METRO BOARD:

1. Redirect monies to fund the inclusion of a Leimert Park/Vernon Station and undergrounding the segment of the alignment from 48th to 59th Streets within the City of Los Angeles, for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor.
2. Consider potential funding sources including, but not limited to, Expo Measure R funds for the “substitute project”, Measure R Green Line to LAX funds, Arbor Vitae interchange project funds and surplus property sales along the alignment.
3. Amend the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor project to include the Leimert Park/Vernon Station and undergrounding the segment of the alignment from 48th to 59th Streets as a part of the Base Project.
4. Authorize, if needed, the release of a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report.